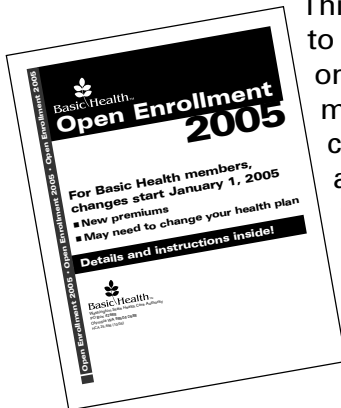


for group members Open Enrollment Alert

September
2004

Open enrollment begins October 18

It's that time of year again! Basic Health's open enrollment period is almost here.



This is your opportunity to change health plans or enroll family members who are not currently on your account. Watch the mail for your open enrollment packet — it should arrive around October 18. Open enrollment will be October 18 through November 12.

Be sure to review the information in your upcoming open enrollment packet. It will tell you what your premium will be for January 2005, what health plans are available to you, and what action you may have to take.

Any changes you make during open enrollment will take effect January 1, 2005.

If you belong to Basic Health as a member of an employer group or a financial sponsor organization, this *Open Enrollment Alert* affects you.

This means your premium may change on the bill you receive in November, due December 5.

Good news! There are no changes to the schedule of benefits for Basic Health in 2005. Copays, deductibles, and out-of-pocket maximums will remain the same. Copays for prescription benefits will not change; however, your health plan's formulary (approved list of covered drugs) may change with the new calendar year. Contact your health plan for more information.

Reminder: Your deductible and out-of-pocket maximum for each covered family member will start over with the new calendar year for those benefits and services subject to deductible and coinsurance.

Health plan changes

Regence BlueShield will not be a contracted health plan for Basic Health in 2005.

If your current health plan is Regence BlueShield, you will be required to change health plans. If only one health plan is available in your area, you will automatically be assigned to that plan. If you have a choice of two or more health plans, and you don't choose another plan, you will be automatically enrolled in one of the lowest-cost plans in your county.

If you are a Basic Health *Plus* or Maternity Benefits Program member, or have children enrolled in Basic Health *Plus*, you and/or your children may be able to remain with Regence BlueShield for 2005. You will need to contact the Department of Social and Health Services' (DSHS) Medical Assistance Administration at 1-800-562-3022 for information.



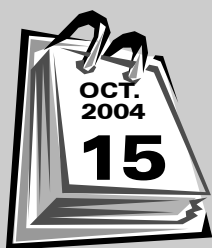
This serves as an official notice of changes to your Basic Health coverage, and is an addendum to your *Member Handbook*.

Things that could affect your premium for 2005

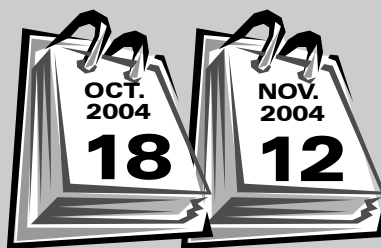
Several things may change your premium for 2005. Among them:

- If you change health plans;
- If you add coverage for a family member who isn't currently enrolled on your account;
- If you or an enrolled family member reached age 40, 55, or 65 during 2004 (premium changes based on the member's age take effect January of the following year, regardless of when the birthday is); or
- If you or a family member loses eligibility for Basic Health, Basic Health *Plus*, or the Maternity Benefits Program.

Important dates to remember



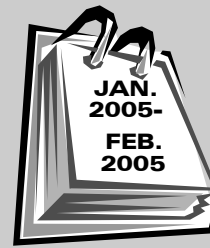
October 15
Open enrollment booklets mailed



October 18 – November 12
Open enrollment — when members can make plan changes and add family members



January 1
New premiums take effect



Mid-January & February
Member Handbook mailed

Si desea ayuda en español, llame al 1-800-321-0291. Для обслуживания на русском языке, позвоните, пожалуйста, по телефону 1-800-387-8224.
한국어로 도움을 원하시면 1-800-324-1658로 연락하십시오. Nếu quý vị muốn được giúp bằng tiếng Việt, xin gọi số 1-800-423-2231.

To obtain this document in another format, call our Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 360-923-2805.
TTY users (deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired), call 360-923-2701 or toll-free 1-888-923-5622.